



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHUNT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

including the Report of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1956

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MANOR HOUSE,
CHESHUNT.

July, 1957.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Cheshunt.*

I have the honour to present my eleventh annual report together with that of the Public Health Inspector upon the health and sanitary circumstances of the district for the year 1956.

The report follows the general lines indicated in Ministry of Health Circular 19/56.

Vital statistics for the district were again satisfactory. The birthrate was 15.58 which is 2.63 higher than last year and the highest since 1951. The birthrate rate for England and Wales was 15.7. The death-rate for Cheshunt was 8.05 compared with 11.7 for England and Wales. The number of infant deaths was eight. Of the total deaths in Cheshunt 38.3 per cent. occurred at age 75 or over. There was one death from puerperal causes during the year.

The incidence of infectious disease generally was low. The number of cases of Scarlet Fever was lower than last year and Measles followed the normal pattern with a minor epidemic occurring in alternate years. There was again no case of Diphtheria and only two cases of Poliomyelitis.

The major task of the Public Health Inspectors during the year was the implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, which improved the legal code dealing with this subject. A survey of all food premises was undertaken to ascertain what improvements or alterations were required to comply with the regulations and the occupiers were advised accordingly.

Steady progress was made in dealing with unfit houses by the making of 25 demolition orders and 7 closing orders during the year, and considerable attention was given to the control of movable dwellings.

I should like to record my thanks to the Public Health Inspector and to all members of the staff for their co-operation throughout the year and to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support.

C. R. HILLIS,
Medical Officer of Health

Urban District Council of Cheshunt

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1956-1957

Councillor D. T. HICKMAN (*Chairman*)
Councillor R. P. ELLIS
Councillor Mrs. W. E. FINCHAM, J.P.
Councillor H. T. HALL
Councillor Mrs. M. W. HAYTER
Councillor R. H. MARCHANT
Councillor Mrs. E. C. OAKDEN
Councillor W. G. UPTON

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time):

CHARLES R. HILLIS, M.B., B.CH.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (Part-time):

JOHN A. CURRIE, M.B., B.S.

Senior Public Health Inspector, Inspector under the Petroleum Act:

C. WILSON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

S. C. BAKER, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,

E. J. DAY, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
(Resigned August, 1956.)

G. H. SMITH, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
(Appointed September, 1956.)

GENERAL

Clerk/Typist: Miss T. PAVELY.

Clerk: Mr. R. C. LOCKWOOD.

Rodent Operative: Mr. P. F. DEAN.

SECTION I

STATISTICS

AREA: The area of Cheshunt is 8,480 acres.

POPULATION: Registrar-General's Estimate:

1945	18,700	1949	21,490	1953	24,670
1946	20,230	1950	22,180	1954	25,350
1947	21,080	1951	23,290	1955	26,090
1948	21,210	1952	23,880	1956	27,000
Number of inhabited houses on the rate books (at 1st April)				1956	1957
				8,063	8,450
Rateable Value				£341,684	£340,670
Sum represented by penny rate				£1,440	£1,435

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

			Male	Female	Total
Deaths from all causes ...	...	84	83	167	
Live Births—Legitimate	...	232	213	445	
Illegitimate	...	4	8	12	
Still Births—Legitimate ...	...	8	5	13	
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—	
Deaths of Infants under one year of age:					
Legitimate	...	...	5	1	6
Illegitimate	...	...	—	2	2
Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age:					
Legitimate	...	...	3	1	4
Illegitimate	...	...	—	2	2

COMPARABILITY OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

To make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole the crude birth and death rates for the area should be multiplied by the area comparability factor supplied for the purpose by the General Register Office. When local crude birth and death rates have been so adjusted they are comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales and with the corresponding adjusted rate for any other area.

The adjusted rates for Cheshunt, together with the crude rates for England and Wales for comparison, are as follows:

	Crude Death Rate	Comparability Factor	Adjusted Rate	England & Wales
1952	8.92	0.85	7.58	11.3
1953	7.26	1.11	8.06	11.4
1954	7.57	1.11	8.40	11.3
1955	7.36	1.11	8.17	11.7
1956	6.19	1.30	8.05	11.7

	Crude Birth Rate	Comparability Factor	Adjusted Rate	England & Wales
1952	15.41	0.97	14.95	15.3
1953	14.31	0.95	13.59	15.5
1954	14.99	0.95	14.24	15.2
1955	14.68	0.95	13.95	15.0
1956	16.93	0.92	15.58	15.7

		1955	1956
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still), Cheshunt ...	... ...	15.67	27.66

Maternal Mortality, Cheshunt:

Deaths from Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis ...	... ...	Nil	1
Deaths from other maternal causes ...		Nil	Nil

INFANT MORTALITY:

All infants per 1,000 live births
Cheshunt England and Wales

Year		No. of Deaths	Rate	Rate
1947	...	11	22.27	41
1948	...	6	14.35	34
1949	...	17	44.62	32
1950	...	8	22.59	29.8
1951	...	11	27.85	29.6
1952	...	6	16.30	27.6
1953	...	10	28.33	26.8
1954	...	12	31.58	25.5
1955	...	4	10.44	24.9
1956	...	8	17.51	23.8

CAUSES OF DEATHS DURING 1956:

			Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	1	1	2
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases			—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	3	—	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	7	1	—	8
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	—	6	—	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	—	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	11	11	—	22
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	1	1	—	2
Diabetes	...	—	—	—	—

			Male	Female	Total
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...			4	16	20
Coronary disease, angina ...			18	10	28
Hypertension with heart disease ...			1	2	3
Other heart disease ...			6	9	15
Other circulatory disease ...			4	5	9
Influenza ...			—	—	—
Pneumonia ...			4	1	5
Bronchitis ...			8	1	9
Other diseases of respiratory system ...			1	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...			—	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...			—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis ...			2	—	2
Hyperplasia of prostate ...			1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...			—	1	1
Congenital malformations ...			—	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases			8	12	20
Motor vehicle accidents ...			2	—	2
All other accidents ...			1	1	2
Suicide ...			1	2	3
Homicide and operations of war ...			—	—	—
All causes ...			84	83	167

SECTION II

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD SERVICES

PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC	Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. Monday to Thursday (inclusive), 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday: 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC	Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. 4th Tuesday morning in each month.
OPHTHALMIC CLINIC	Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. Friday: 9.30 to 11.30 a.m.
PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC	Tolmers Road, Cuffley. Tuesday and Thursday: 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Wednesday and Friday: 2 to 5 p.m.
CHEST CLINIC	Honey Lane Hospital, Waltham Abbey. Monday: 9.45 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Artificial Pneumothorax refills 9.45 a.m.).

COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES

AMBULANCE	Fire and Ambulance Station, Cheshunt. Establishment on 31st December, 1956: two shift leaders, six ambulance drivers, one ambulance, one sitting case car.
DAY NURSERY	The Chestnuts, Waltham Cross (Tel.: Waltham Cross 4878). 40 places for children 0 to 5 years.
HOME HELP SERVICE	Organiser: Mrs. M. Ellis, 194 High Street, Waltham Cross. (Tel.: No. W.X. 4658). Hours: Monday to Friday, 10.30 to 11.30 a.m. Establishment of Home Helps at 31st December, 1956, 52. Cases assisted during 1956, 273.

WELFARE
CENTRES

Labour Hall, College Road, Cheshunt.
Thursday: 2 to 4 p.m. Doctor attends.
Memorial Hall, Goff's Oak, 1st and 3rd
Wednesdays in the month at 1.30 to 4.30
p.m. Doctor attends.

Rear of Greenfield House, High Street,
Waltham Cross. (Tel.: Waltham Cross
3401).

Minor Ailments Clinic. Wednesday 9
to 10 a.m.

Immunisation and Special Cases. 2nd
and 4th Wednesday mornings. Doctor
attends.

Dental Clinic—by appointment only.

Ophthalmic. Fridays 9.30 to 11.30 a.m.

Speech Therapy Clinic. Fridays 9 a.m.
to 12.15 p.m. and 1.30 to 4 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinic. Mondays 1.30 p.m. to
3 p.m. Doctor attends .

Infant Welfare Centre. Wednesday 1.45
to 4 p.m. Doctor attends.

Orthoptic. Monday a.m. and p.m.
Tuesday a.m. and p.m.

HEALTH VISITORS
AND SCHOOL
NURSES

Mrs. C. E. Tuscher, Nurse's Cottage, Park
Lane, Broxbourne, (Hoddesdon 2656).
(H.V. and School Nurse, Wormley). Miss
M. N. Hilton, Welfare Centre, High
Street, Waltham Cross, (Waltham Cross
3401).

Mrs. I. Jorgensen, Welfare Centre, High
Street. Waltham Cross.

Mrs. J. P. Wilkins, The Wolery, Carnary
Road, Broxbourne.

Miss J. P. Young, 87 Cuffley Hill, Goff's
Oak, (Cuffley 2420).

- DISTRICT NURSES
AND MIDWIVES** Mrs. C. E. Tuscher, Nurse's Cottage, Park Lane, Broxbourne, (Hoddesdon 2656). (Midwife, Turnford and Wormley).
- Miss Hitchon and Miss Skidmore, 178 High Street, Waltham Cross, (Waltham Cross 3127).
- Miss M. Smith, 24 Cromwell Avenue, Cheshunt, (Waltham Cross 3580).
- Miss M. G. Brown, 87 Cuffley Hill, Goff's Oak, (Cuffley 2420).
- Miss E. L. Day, Park Cottage, Flamstead End, (Waltham Cross 3410).
- Miss G. D. Taylor, 1 Prescott Road, Cheshunt, (Waltham Cross 2344).

OTHER SERVICES

BLOOD TRANSFUSION.

Blood donor sessions have been held at intervals during the year at the Health Centre, Waltham Cross. More donors are still urgently needed.

Dates of future sessions and further information may be obtained from Miss E. Munns, Honorary Organiser, National Blood Transfusion Service, 49 Blindmans Lane, Cheshunt. Telephone No.: Waltham Cross 3206.

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

The Society has a range of medical equipment for the sick and injured, available on loan on the recommendation of Medical Practitioners and District Nurses. The equipment is at 194 High Street, Waltham Cross Telephone No.: Waltham Cross 4658.

In addition to their normal activities the local detachment have available a team which is on call for disaster relief work under the Commandant, Mrs. M. Ellis, "Folkvang." Blindmans Lane, Cheshunt. Telephone No. Waltham Cross 3165.

Invalid food distribution is undertaken by Mrs. Drake, "Bollington," Blindmans Lane, Cheshunt.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

A hospital laboratory service is available at Chase Farm Hospital and at the Hertford County Hospital. Larger scale facilities are available at the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale and the Regional Public Health Laboratory, Luton.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

During the year no action was taken by the Council under Section 47 of the Act, for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

MORTUARY.

The mortuary is situated in a building at Cheshunt Cemetery, Bury Green Road. During the year seven bodies were received in the mortuary.

SECTION III

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following table shows details of diseases notified during 1955 and 1956:—

	1955 Cases Notified	1956		
		Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	... 18	13	1	—
Measles	... 740	58	2	—
Whooping Cough	... 6	98	—	—
Pneumonia	... 49	38	6	5
Erysipelas	... 2	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	... 3	6	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	.. 7	2	2	—
Dysentery	... 5	8	—	—
Food Poisoning	... 6	6	2	—
Ophthalmia				
Neonatorum	2	4	—	—
Tuberculosis	... 9	11	—	2
Paratyphoid Fever	... 5	1	1	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	4	4	—

MEASLES.

Notifications of Measles in the last ten years are shown in the following table:—

Year	Cases Notified	Notifications per 1,000 population
1956	58	2.15
1955	740	28.36
1954	4	0.16
1953	660	26.75
1952	199	8.33
1951	580	24.90
1950	22	0.99
1949	450	20.94
1948	128	6.04
1947	324	15.37

WHOOPING COUGH.

The incidence of this disease over the past ten years is shown in the following table:—

Year	Cases Notified	Notifications per 1,000 population
1956	98	3.63
1955	6	0.23
1954	32	1.26
1953	247	10.01
1952	88	3.10
1951	71	3.05
1950	130	5.86
1949	48	2.23
1948	108	5.09
1947	147	6.97

POLIOMYELITIS.

Five cases of Poliomyelitis were notified during the year but in three cases the provisional diagnosis was not confirmed.

The two confirmed cases were children aged seven and nine years and one was paralytic and the other non-paralytic. Both were reported on discharge from hospital to have made a complete recovery.

DYSENTERY.

Of the eight cases of Dysentery notified four were members of one family all ill at the same time and the others were isolated cases. The sources of infection were not traced.

FOOD POISONING.

The six cases of food poisoning notified during the year were single cases. The laboratory investigations established the causative agent in two cases as *Salmonella typhi-murium* and in one case the illness was attributed to the consumption of conkers. In the other three cases the source of infection was not traced.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis in 1956 was 11 compared with nine cases in 1955.

New Cases, 1956—classified by age groups:—

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0—5	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	1	—	—	1
15—25	1	—	—	—	1
25—35	3	1	—	—	4
35—45	—	2	—	—	2
45—55	1	1	—	—	2
55—65	—	1	—	—	1
65 upwards	—	—	—	—	—
	5	6	—	—	11

Number of cases from other areas transferred to Cheshunt	1955	1956
...	12	10

There were two deaths attributed to Tuberculosis in Cheshunt during 1956.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which relate respectively to infectious persons suffering from tuberculosis and engaged in the handling of milk and to the removal to hospital of infectious persons suffering from tuberculosis.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

The North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board carried out a Mass Radiography Investigation in Cheshunt on 1st, 2nd and 7th August.

The unit was stationed at the Drill Hall, and the Council co-operated with the Board in making the local arrangements and in arranging publicity.

The following is the final analysis of the survey.

		Male	Female	Total
Total number examined	... ...	545	465	1,010
Organised Groups—Number examined		6	46	52
Public Session—Number examined	... ...	539	419	958
Recalled for Large Films	... ...	25	8	33
Recalled for Clinical Interview	... ...	10	4	14
Carcinoma of Bronchus	... ...	2	—	2
Tuberculosis:				
Presumed Healed	... ...	5	3	8
Occasional Clinic Supervision	... ...	2	—	2
Close Clinic Supervision	... ...	1	—	1
Requiring Immediate Treatment	... ...	—	1	1
Other Abnormalities	... ...	6	3	9
Abnormalities discovered include:				
Pneumonia	... ...	1	—	1
Bronchiectasis	... ...	1	—	1
Abnormalities of Diaphragm	... ...	1	2	3

Previous visits of the Unit to Cheshunt for public sessions were in 1953 and 1950 when the total numbers attending were 1,682 and 1,702 respectively.

SECTION IV

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTION OF THE AREA

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year numbered 3,488 and details as to the nature of these inspections are given in the tables which follow. 892 complaints relating to a variety of matters were received.

SUMMARY.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health and Housing Acts)	190
Number of dwelling-houses inspected for other than housing defects	162
Number of premises other than houses inspected ...	1,253
Premises re-inspected	978
Visits to works in progress	118
Miscellaneous visits	787
	—
	3,488

Included in the above table are the following classified visits:—

Visits to Schools	51
„ „ places of public entertainment	38
„ „ swimming bath	8
„ „ movable dwellings	132
„ re keeping animals	17
„ „ Petroleum Acts	131
„ „ Shops Acts	11
„ „ collection and disposal of refuse and salvage	219
„ „ infectious diseases and disinfections ...	99
„ „ drainage	36
„ „ rats and mice	102

Details of inspections of food premises and factories are given in the appropriate sections of the Report.

CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

No action was taken under the Clearance Area procedure of the Housing Act during the year.

Twenty-five Demolition Orders and seven Closing Orders were made during the year, bringing the total number of individual unfit houses dealt with by Demolition or Closing Orders since the beginning of 1953 to 91.

The houses dealt with in 1956 were as follows:—

DEMOLITION ORDERS.

Address	Date Order made
8, 10, 12, 14, 16 Rowlands Fields	25.1.56
148, 150, 152, 154, 156 Hammond Street Road	29.2.56
124, 126 Trinity Lane	28.3.56
52 Flamstead End Road	28.3.56
36 Albert Road	25.4.56
200, 202 Windmill Lane	24.5.56
1 & 2 Farm Cottages, Beaumont	27.6.56
2, 4 Rowlands Fields	27.6.56
Brookfield Farm House, Gt. Cambridge Road	25.7.56
Railway Carriages A1, A2, A3 and Nissen Hut,	
Theobalds Park Farm	25.7.56

CLOSING ORDERS.

266 High Street, Waltham Cross	28.3.56
10 College Road	28.3.56
254 High Street, Waltham Cross	14.5.56
69 Flamstead End Road	24.5.56
65 Flamstead End Road	24.10.56
67 Flamstead End Road	24.10.56
71 Flamstead End Road	24.10.56

Twenty houses were demolished during the year, this number including houses on which Demolition Orders were made in previous years.

An appeal against the demolition orders in respect of 1 and 2 Farm Cottages, Beaumont, was heard at the Edmonton County Court in October. The Judge ordered that the demolition orders should not be operative for six months and that in two months an undertaking should be given by the owner that he would commence to build two other cottages during the period of six months deferment.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.—CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

One certificate of disrepair only was issued during the year. The possession of the certificate enables the tenant to refuse to pay the repairs increase until the house is repaired.

HOUSING ACT, 1949.—IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

In November the decision of December, 1955, was rescinded and the Council resumed the consideration of applications for Improvement Grants under the provisions of Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949.

No grants were approved during the year.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of houses erected since 1945:—

By the Urban District Council of Cheshunt ...	...	1,209
By the Edmonton Borough Council ...	...	694
By the Tottenham Borough Council ...	...	185
By Private Enterprise ...	...	1,035
		3,123

Number of houses erected during 1956:—

By the Urban District Council of Cheshunt ...	...	314
By the Tottenham Borough Council ...	...	6
By Private Enterprise ...	...	374
		694

OVERCROWDING.

One case of overcrowding was ascertained during the year. The circumstances were such that in accordance with subsection 2 of Section 59 of the Housing Act, 1936, the occupier or landlord was not guilty of an offence until it could be proved that the occupier had refused other suitable accommodation.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

I. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	93	36	1	—
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	... ...	—	—	—
Total	... ...	101	36	1

There are two factories in this area submitting lists of out-workers under Section 110 of the Act. Notifications were received of 30 places of employment of out-workers in this district which had been included in lists submitted to other Councils. Sixty-four inspections were made of out-workers' premises and they were found to be satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.—MEANS OF ESCAPE IN CASE OF FIRE.

During the year the factory of the Kingsbury Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Eleanor Cross Road, was certified under Section 34 of the Act to be provided with such means of escape in case of fire for the persons employed therein as may reasonably be required in the circumstances.

PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT.

Regulation 5 of the Hertfordshire (Music and Dancing) Regulations, 1955, provides that all new applications for a licence shall be accompanied by a letter from the County District Council for the area in which the premises are situated stating whether or not the County District Council wishes to make any objection on sanitary grounds to the licensing of the premises.

All applications for renewal of existing licences are notified by the County Council to the County District Council asking whether the County District Council wishes to object to renewal of a licence on sanitary grounds.

To ensure uniformity of application and to secure a reasonable standard the Council adopted the code of practice prepared by the Sanitary Inspectors' Association as the standard to be used in the operation of Regulation 5 in this district.

One application was received under the Regulations in respect of the new Foresters Hall, Turner's Hill, and the Council decided that no objection be raised on sanitary grounds to the licensing of the premises provided both the new and old halls are let as one unit.

Inspections were made of 20 premises where licences were due for renewal at the end of the year and in respect of some of the premises minor matters which did not comply with the code of practice were taken up with the owners. No sanitary matters affecting the control of public safety and order that would justify an objection to the renewal of any licence were found and the County Council was so informed.

SERVICE OF NOTICES.

Statutory Notices under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936, to abate nuisance	...	...	...	17
Statutory Notices under Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936, to provide a covered dustbin	...	...	...	15
Statutory Notices under Section 277, Public Health Act, 1936, requiring information as to ownership of premises	...	...	...	74
Statutory Notice under Section 157, Housing Act, 1936, before entry for the purpose of Survey and Examination	...	...	...	1
Statutory Notice under Section 39, Public Health Act, 1936, requiring execution of works of drainage	...	...	...	1
Statutory Notices under Section 287, Public Health Act, 1936, re notice of entry	...	...	...	3

SUMMARY

Statutory Notices requiring defects in dwelling-houses to be remedied:—

Served, 1956	...	...	17	Complied with, 1956	...	21
Outstanding 31st Dec., 1955	...	...	4	Outstanding, 31st Dec., 1956	...	3
Unexpired, 31st Dec., 1955	3			Unexpired, 31st Dec., 1956	Nil	
	—		24		—	24
	—		—		—	—

Statutory Notices requiring provision of dustbins:—

Served, 1956	...	...	15	Complied with by:		
Outstanding, 31st Dec., 1955	...	...	3	Owner	...	...
Unexpired, 31st Dec., 1955	Nil			Occupier	...	...
	—		18	Local Authority in default	...	3
	—		—	Outstanding, 31st Dec., 1956	...	1
				Unexpired, 31st Dec., 1956	Nil	
					—	18
					—	—

Intimation Notices:—

Outstanding, 31st December, 1955	...	...	...	...	...	57
Outstanding, 31st December, 1956	...	...	...	...	...	188
Served during 1956	...	...	...	...	...	461

WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the district is within the area of supply of the Metropolitan Water Board and the supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality. All dwelling houses in the district are supplied from public mains direct to the houses with the exception of ten outlying premises where water is obtained from private sources.

During the year 23 samples of water for bacteriological examination were taken from the private supply serving Theobalds Secondary Modern School and the Camping Ground at Theobalds Park. All the samples were reported upon as satisfactory. The supply is from a deep bore well and an automatic chlorination plant is installed.

During April and May four samples of water from the private supply serving Waltham Common Lock House were submitted for bacteriological examination and all the samples were reported upon as unsatisfactory. The occupier was warned that no water from this source should be used for drinking purposes unless previously boiled and following representations to the owners a filter has now been installed.

Following informal action a new bore well and domestic type filter were provided at River Cottage, Halfhide Lane, where the water supply had previously been obtained by dipping from the New River. A sample taken in October from the rising main supply before filtration was reported as unsatisfactory but samples taken in October and November from the new supply after filtration were reported upon as satisfactory. The occupier was warned that water from this source should be used for drinking purposes only after filtration.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There are no publicly owned baths or pools in the area. The swimming pool of the Cheshunt Swimming Club, which is privately owned, is operated on the fill and empty system with water supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board. A drip feed chlorinator is used and partial circulation of the water is obtained by pumping. Routine tests for free chlorine are carried out with a chlorotex indicator.

The weather during the season did not encourage heavy bathing loads. Five samples were taken for bacteriological examination and all were reported upon as satisfactory.

The swimming bath at Theobalds Secondary Modern School is operated on the fill and empty system with water from the chlorinated supply at the school. Two samples were submitted for bacteriological examination during the season and both were reported upon as satisfactory.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS.

Consent under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935, was granted in January in respect of one additional movable dwelling on The Willows, Waltham Cross and in December, consents were renewed in respect of the 39 movable dwellings on the site for a further period of 12 months. Consents were also renewed in respect of caravans on the following sites:—

Springfields Nursery, Crouch Lane.

Sicklefield Nursery, Appleby Street.

Land occupied by Smith, St. James Road.

Highview Farm, Crouch Lane.

209 Windmill Lane, Cheshunt.

Land occupied by Wood, Bullscross Ride.

Pylon Farm, St. James Road.

Burton Grange Farm, Goff's Oak.

New applications were considered in respect of sites at Shrimpton's Nursery, St. James Road; Tolcarne Nursery, Crouch Lane; Brookside Nursery, Crouch Lane. The applicants were informed of the requirements of the Council in relation to drains, sanitary accommodation, water supply and hard standing which would be necessary before consent was granted.

Applications for consent in respect of movable dwellings on the following sites were refused:—

Jolly Bargeman, Windmill Lane, (S. Gumble).

Land occupied by Tuck, Russells Ride.

Theobalds Park Farm, Waltham Cross.

The caravan at 205 Windmill Lane, was removed from the site during the year.

Legal proceedings were commenced during the year in respect of an unauthorised site at Goff's Oak House, Goff's Lane, where in March there were 29 vans and vehicles many of which were used for residential purposes. In July the Justices convicted the owner of the offence of using the land for occupation by movable dwellings contrary to Section 93 of the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935, and imposed a fine of £2 and awarded the Council three guineas costs. A daily penalty of £1 was also imposed if the caravans were not removed by 1st October, 1956. Subsequent applications from the owner and individual occupiers for consent were refused. The owner commenced extensive works to provide concrete roads, concrete standings and main drainage to the site but this work and the legal proceedings were not completed by the end of the year.

Proceedings were authorised in respect of movable dwellings used for residential purposes at St. Lawrence Farm, Goff's Oak, without the previous consent of the Council but this case was not heard during the year.

Proceedings were also authorised in respect of a movable dwelling on a site at the rear of the Victoria Public House, Turner's Hill, but this van was subsequently removed and proceedings were not necessary.

INFESTATION.

Use of contact insecticides and where necessary the steam disinfection of bedding and clothing are the methods used to combat infestation.

During the year the assistance of the department was sought to deal with infestations in or around domestic premises as follows:—

Wasps 27; Earwigs 11; Ants 6; Cockroaches 1; House Flies 1.

RODENT CONTROL

Year ended 31st March, 1957

	Type of Property			all other (including Business and Industrial)	
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricul- tural		
Total number of properties ...	7	8,218	173	1,069	9,467
Number of properties inspected	4	522	11	544	1,081
Number of properties found to be infested by rats ...	Major	1	2	1	5
... Minor	—	113	6	16	135
Number of properties found to be infested by mice ...	Major	—	—	—	—
... Minor	2	13	—	3	18
Number of infested properties treated		3	127	8	20
					158

Treatment of infestation of private dwellings is carried out free of charge but charges are made for rodent control work done at other premises.

The annual test baiting of the soil sewers was carried out during March and of 69 manholes tested, partial and complete takes occurred in 26 manholes.

Poison treatment was carried out in the areas where takes were recorded.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Refuse is collected weekly and is disposed of by controlled tipping in a disused gravel pit.

The cost of Refuse Collection and Disposal for the past three years after the income from salvage sales had been deducted, was as follows:—

		Year to 31st March		
		1955	1956	1957
Population	...	25,350	26,090	27,000
Net Cost	...	£12,281	£13,625	£16,194
Cost per 1,000 population		£484	£522	£600

The Council have a contract with Messrs. Thames Board Mills, Ltd., for the sale of waste paper until March, 1958.

Supply of waste paper during the year exceeded demand and waste paper stocks were stated to be higher than at any previous time and the storage areas practically full.

Deliveries which could be accepted from the Council were limited to 150 tons for the six months July to December.

The collection of kitchen waste is carried out from communal street bins by a private contractor under annual contract. Some difficulty was experienced from pilferage of the contents of these bins and a number of the bins were stolen.

Details of salvage sales during the year (to 31st December) together with the figures for 1955 are as follows:—

	1955			1956		
	Weight tons.	Weight cwt.	Value £ s. d.	Weight tons	Weight cwt.	Value £ s. d.
Waste Paper	291	1½	2,311 12 1	343	6	2,627 2 11
Pig Food	234	0	280 8 4	234	0	284 3 4
Rags	11	4½	407 10 10	11	11	381 19 9
Bottles and Jars	9	5	58 17 7	5	18	39 0 9
Metal	11	11½	199 18 6	7	0½	142 8 9
Cullet	3	0¾	5 10 6	2	9½	3 16 9
	560	2¾	£3,263 17 10	604	4¾	£3,478 12 3

REFUSE DUMPS.

Dumping of refuse is controlled by consents granted by the County Council and the District Council under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935.

No new consents were granted during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

One licence to keep a pet shop was granted during the year and the conditions recommended by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals were incorporated in the licence.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The number of food premises in the area classified according to type of business is as follows:—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	2
Milk Producers	...	...	...	...	...	13
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	44
Grocery and Provisions	...	...	...	...	...	59
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	26
Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	...	6
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	18
Chemists	...	...	...	...	...	9
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	66
Cafes, Caterers	...	...	...	...	...	29
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	22
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	12
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	6

During the year 932 visits were made to shops and premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale as detailed in the following table:—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	208
Butcher Shops	...	...	...	...	...	51
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	16
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	42
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	63
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	21
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	65
Other Food Shops and Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	466

At premises other than slaughterhouses, the following food-stuffs were surrendered as unsound and unfit for human consumption:—

Foods of all descriptions	...	...	25,785	tins & jars
Bacon	...	...	108½	lbs.
Beef	...	...	89	lbs.
Ham	...	...	14	lbs.
Liver	...	...	57½	lbs.
Kidney	...	...	18	lbs.
Cheese	...	...	42	lbs.
Margarine	...	...	24	lbs.
Fruit Cake	...	...	190	lbs.

Most of the foodstuffs surrendered were examined on request at wholesalers' or retailers' premises.

Five complaints were received regarding unfit foodstuffs sold. Three were in relation to mould growth on sausages, bread and steak and kidney pie. The other two complaints were in respect of extraneous material adhering to the bottom of milk bottles. In three cases the Council decided to issue warnings to the firms concerned.

MILK SAMPLING.

Twelve samples of milk from various retailers were submitted for laboratory examination during the year. All the samples satisfied the prescribed tests.

The County Council undertake sampling for the presence of tubercle bacilli and brucella abortus. No report of the presence of either of these organisms was received during the year.

MILK LICENCES.

Licences were granted for the year 1956 as follows:—

Tuberculin Tested—Dealer's Licence	...	...	4
Tuberculin Tested—Supplementary Licence	...	...	4
Pasteurised—Dealer's Licence	...	...	6
Pasteurised—Supplementary Licence	...	...	4
Sterilised—Dealer's Licence	...	...	17
Sterilised—Supplementary Licence	...	...	6

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Two hundred and eight visits were made to the two licensed slaughterhouses during the year and details of carcasses and offal inspected and condemned are shown in the following table:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed if known	169	—	21	793	308	—
Number inspected ...	169	—	21	793	308	—
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	23	—	1	8	15	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	13.61	—	4.76	1.01	4.87	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	10	—	—	—	6	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	5.91	—	—	—	1.95	—
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

Both slaughterhouses are approved as Deadweight Certification Centres for Pigs and 113 pigs were inspected and certified under the Fatstock Guarantee Scheme.

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

Condemned foodstuffs are buried with suitable precautions at the Council's Refuse Disposal Tip or are sent to the Refuse Incineration Plant of an adjoining authority.

LICENSING OF SLAUGHTERMEN.

Licences were granted under the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1955, to seven applicants to slaughter animals in a slaughterhouse by the captive bolt method.

REGISTRATION OF FOOD PREMISES.

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954, together with the number of inspections is shown in the following table:—

Premises	No.	No. of Inspections
Ice Cream Premises ...	66	42
Food Preparing Premises ...	23	456
Dairies	4	10

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) REGULATIONS 1947-52.

No contraventions were recorded of the Regulations regarding temperature of which ice cream is to be kept or as to protection from contamination.

There are no premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

ICE CREAM SAMPLING.

Examination of ice cream samples is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Luton, by the methylene blue test, and the samples are graded according to Ministry of Health provisional grades. Plate counts on the samples and presumptive tests for B.Coli are not carried out.

During the year 36 samples were submitted for examination. The results were as follows:—

Grade I	Wrapped	...	29	}	86.11%	}	100%
	Unwrapped	...	2				
Grade II	Wrapped	...	5				

The methylene blue test is not a statutory test and the Public Health Laboratory Service advises that it is unwise to pay too much attention to the result of any one sample. It is suggested that it would be reasonable to expect about 50%

of samples throughout the year to fall into Grade I, 80% to Grades I or II, not more than 20% into Grade III and none into Grade IV.

The sampling results for the year were satisfactory since no samples were placed in Grades III and IV.

A copy of the laboratory report is supplied to the retailer in respect of all samples taken.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The Council are the Food and Drugs authority for the Urban District. During the year six formal and 28 informal samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis, as follows:—

Sample No.	Article	Type of Sample	Analyst's Report
9	Nerve Mixture	Informal	See below
10	Oxtail Soup	"	Genuine
11	Dripping	"	Genuine
12	Fish Cakes	"	Genuine
13	Procea Bread	Formal	See below
14	Ground Almonds	Informal	Genuine
15	Mango Chutney	"	Genuine
16	Lemon Icing Sugar	"	Genuine
17	"Bev" Coffee and Chicory	"	Genuine
18	Meat Paste	"	Genuine
19	Malt Vinegar	Formal	Genuine
20	Salt	Informal	Genuine
21	Whisky	Formal	Genuine
22	Rice	Informal	Genuine
23	Ice Cream	"	Genuine
24	Vanilla Flavouring	"	Genuine
25	Plum Jam	"	Genuine
26	Lemonade	"	Genuine
27	Salad Cream	"	Genuine
28	Milk	Formal	Genuine
29	Gristick	Informal	See below
30	Synthetic Cream	"	Genuine
31	Pepper	"	Genuine
32	Meat Pie	"	Genuine
33	Cake Mixture	"	Genuine
34	Non brewed Condiment	"	Genuine
35	Castor Oil	Formal	Genuine
36	Whisky	"	Genuine
37	Lemonade Powder	Informal	Genuine
38	Glacè Ginger	"	Genuine
39	Butter	"	Genuine
40	Mixed Cut Peel	"	Genuine
41	Brown Sugar	"	Genuine
42	Rum Flavouring	"	See below

SAMPLE NO. 9. NERVE MIXTURE.. (Informal).

The Analyst's report stated:—

“Total Ammonia (NH_3) 0.06%.

“The list of active ingredients given on the label of the bottle stated that the medicine included 16.85% of Ammoniated tincture of Valerian. This tincture should contain a minimum of 0.7% of ammonia and the medicine should therefore contain 0.12% of ammonia.

“My analysis shows only half this quantity of ammonia to be present.

“I do not regard this as being a very serious matter since ammonia is not one of the principal active constituents of the mixture and moreover it only forms a part of one of the ingredients. I am unable to say whether this shortage in ammonia is due to loss on storage or whether it is due to an initial shortage of ammoniated tincture of valerian.”

The matter was taken up with the Manufacturers who stated that during manufacture the correct amount of ammoniated tincture of valerian had been included but probably as small amount had been lost owing to the length of time that had lapsed since manufacture; steps were being taken to ensure strict supervision when manufacturing.

SAMPLE NO. 13. PROCEA BREAD. (Formal).

The Analyst's report stated:—

“Protein (Nitrogen x 5.7) calculated on the dry basis 15.7%.

“Procea Bread is claimed to be fortified with wheat protein. The results given above indicate that the bread has been fortified with wheat protein and the additional protein present in the sample is sufficient to justify the description Procea.”

SAMPLE NO. 29 GRI-STICK (Informal).

The Analyst's report stated:—

“Gri-stick is sold as a new kind of bread. The sample as received contained:—

Protein (Nitrogen x 5.7)	...	11.4	per cent.
Moisture	...	0.9	per cent.
Calcium (Ca)	...	32	milligrams per oz.
Vitamin B ₁	...	0.093	milligram per oz.

"The pamphlet which accompanied this sample claimed Gri-stick to be full of minerals, proteins and vitamins.

"In order to justify a claim for 'full of' minerals and vitamins in a foodstuff in my opinion the average quantity of foodstuff consumed in a day should contain half the daily requirement of one of the essential minerals and half the daily requirement of one of the vitamins.

"On the basis of the average amount consumed daily of this foodstuff being four ounces the sample contains insufficient calcium and insufficient Vitamin B₁ in order to justify a claim for full of minerals or a claim for full of vitamins.

"Furthermore the above results of analysis show that the protein content of this sample calculated on the dry basis is no more than is normally found in average white bread calculated on a similar basis. I am therefore of the opinion that the statement 'Full of Proteins' is false and misleading.

"The pamphlet is not in accord with the requirements of the Labelling of Food Order in that although claims are made for the presence of minerals and vitamins no statement of the amounts of these substances per ounce of the foodstuff is given."

The matter was referred to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for comment and after pointing out the provisions of Article 9 of the Labelling of Food Order, 1955, and Section 6 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, the letter from the Ministry stated that if the Council decided to institute proceedings 14 days notice of intention to do so should be addressed to the Ministry accompanied by a copy of the draft information.

The Council instructed that a letter of warning should be sent to the suppliers who stated that the leaflet about which complaint was made was edited and printed abroad in 1953 to advertise an imported Gri-stick, importation and sales of which were discontinued in April, 1955. All stocks of this leaflet were being withdrawn.

SAMPLE NO. 42. RUM FLAVOURING. (Informal).

The Analyst's report stated:—

"It consisted of a mixture of a solution of acetic acid and glycerine and flavouring.

The sample contained: Acetic Acid ... 27% w/v.

"In my opinion the proportion of acetic acid in this flavouring is excessive and objectionable.

"In our experience acetic acid in relatively large proportions is not a normal constituent of Rum Flavouring. The Labelling of Food Order 1953 now requires that where solutions of acetic acid are marketed with a strength of more than 15%, the strength of the acetic acid must be stated on the label and also a cautionary note to the effect that it should not be used unless diluted. Clearly this Regulation is intended to apply principally to the so-called concentrated vinegar essence but nevertheless it is a useful indication of the official view towards the sale of products containing substantial quantities of acetic acid."

The Council decided that a warning letter should be sent to the supplier of the Rum Flavouring and that a formal sample should be taken at a later date.

The manufacturers in their reply stated that alkyl acetates are widely used in the manufacture of flavouring of this type and the development of acidity would be expected under the normal conditions of storage encountered over a long period.

The flavouring examined contained 25% by weight of ethyl acetate as one flavouring component, and 50% of glycerol diacetate as the solvent. These products are prone to hydrolysis and would yield acetic acid on breakdown. In bright sunlight, or in a warm or damp atmosphere, hydrolysis could be accelerated and the quantity found would not be unreasonable. They also stated that sale of this flavouring was discontinued in 1952, and that they considered a shelf life of six months as reasonable for a product of this nature although this period may be longer (one or two years) if it has been stored under ideal conditions. Goods of this nature are guaranteed for six months from the date of invoice.

The views of the Public Analyst were sought on the Manufacturer's explanation and the following observations were received:—

"From the information available, in my view, the shopkeeper is very much to blame for the unsatisfactory nature of this sample. According to the manufacturer the sample is

over five years old and this is far too long for any substance which is used in the preparation of a food to be kept in stock, other, of course, than the few articles which are known to mature on storage.

"On the other hand the manufacturers of the flavouring are also partly at fault. I am surprised at their statement that the high proportion of acetic acid found in the flavouring was due to the break down of the flavouring constituents and the solvent.

"I have always understood that substances used for flavouring purposes these days are prepared in such a manner that they do not readily break down into their constituents parts. In any case if this is not so and the manufacturers hold the view that this particular flavouring has a shelf life of only six months then clearly an indication to this effect should be given on the label."

These views were made known to the manufacturers. The retailer was warned to avoid unnecessarily prolonged storage of foodstuffs liable to deteriorate.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

In May the County Council organised a course for school canteen staff at the Cheshunt Secondary Modern School when talks on Bacteriology and Food Hygiene were included and the Central Council for Health Education Film Strip on Food Hygiene was shown.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

On 1st January, 1956, the Food Hygiene Regulations came into force except for certain provisions, likely to involve alterations to premises or equipment or substantial changes in existing practices, which were deferred until 1st July.

The Regulations make important extensions to the law relating to the contamination of food; require the provision of sinks or other facilities for washing food equipment; the provision of a constant supply of hot water to food premises and lay down conditions under which certain foods that provide a particularly favourable medium for food poisoning organisms are to be kept in food premises.

An illustrated guide prepared by the Central Council for Health Education was circulated to the occupiers of all food premises in the district and a survey of food premises was undertaken to ascertain what alterations or improvements were required to comply with the Regulations.

One hundred and sixty-four written requests to carry out works to comply with the Regulations were sent to the occupiers of food premises during the year, and substantial progress was made in securing the improvements required.

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